MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the year ended 31st December, 1958

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

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MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman	Major R. H. Jones-Evans, M.B.E.
Vice Chairman	W. A. Breese.
Members	Mr. H. H. Barker, Lt. Col. The Hon. R.E.B. Beaumont, T.D., J.P., Mr. G. B. Edwards, Mr. G. H. Evans, Mr. J. D. Holt, Mr. O. R. James, Mr. G. Lloyd Jones, Mr. R. H. Micah, Mr. I. G. Owen, Mr. J. Ll. Pugh, Mr. I. Rowlands, C.C., J.P., Mr. J. T. Royles, Mr. T. Vaughan.

Staff

Medical Officer of Health	Amelia Evans.
Public Health Inspector	B. Brooks Evans.
Clerk to the Public Health Inspector	Rosaline Pearce.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1958 on the health and sanitary conditions in your area and which is in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health Circular 22/58 (Wales).

Staff

There were no changes in the staffing of the department during the year.

Vital Statistics

The birth rate for 1958 was 17.13 per 1,000 population, as compared with a rate of 10.93 in 1957. The rate for the Urban areas of the County was 16.61 and in the whole of Montgomeryshire it was 16.05.

There were no still births. In 1957 the still birth rate was 5.0% of live births. The rate for the Urban areas of the County was 1.0% and in the whole County it was 2.1%.

There were no illegitimate births in 1958, as was the case in 1957. The rate in the Urban Districts was 3.4% of total births and in the whole County 3.8%.

Infant Mortality

There was one death in an infant occurring in its first year of life, and this gives an infant mortality rate of 32 per 1,000 live births. In 1957 there were no such deaths. This death occurred in the first four weeks of life and involved a female legitimate birth. The cause of death was cerebral haemorrhage and prematurity.

The Infant Mortality rate for the Urban areas in the County was 24 per 1,000 live births and in Montgomeryshire it was 25.

Deaths

There were 25 deaths from all causes giving a rate of 13.81 per 1,000 population, compared with 13.66 in 1957. The rate in the Urban areas of the County was 12.22 and in the whole County it was 12.59.

There was one death from tuberculosis.

National Assistance Act 1948 - Section 47.

No action was taken under this Act in 1958.

Housing

The Council own the following houses -

Pre-war	Treowain	39
Post-war	Cae Crwn	60
	Tregarth	62
	Total -	161.

The allocation of houses is still a problem to the Council and during the year a points system was introduced in an endeavour to arrive at a fair system of choosing tenants.

The Council however, does not consider applicants until they have been on the waiting list for twelve months. In some of these cases consideration is however given in cases of extreme urgency, before twelve months have elapsed.

At the end of the year there were 46 applicants on the waiting list. Of these, three were old aged pensioners. The remainder were mostly married couples with children.

This is a summary of the list, at the end of 1958.

Working and living in Machynlleth

4, married with children.
1, married couple with no children.
3, single persons.

Working in, but living outside the Urban area

5, married with 3 children.
4, married with one child.
1, married with two children.
1, applicant with mother.

Working and living outside the Urban area

3, married with no children.
2, married with children.
1, old age pensioner.

Those who have applied less than twelve months

7, married with two children.
2, married with one child.
2, mothers with two children.
3, married with no children.
3 adults with three children.

Those who have applied less than twelve months Cont'd.

3 adults.
3 adults with one child.

With this still formidable list facing such a small town, the Council does intend to build more houses for general need at Tregarth.

Further re-housing from slum property was continued during the year, but this, as in the previous year, is causing concern to the Council, in so far that many people who live in sub-standard property wish to remain there. I am still convinced that the primary reason for not wishing to take a Council owned house is the high rent. Many people are very independent and do not like to apply to the National Assistance Board for help with the rent. Also, although this is a small town in both size and population people, especially older people, like to live near the shops and it may be they feel that the houses are too far from the hub of the town. The Council are endeavouring to build small units in the centre of the town which would be suitable for older people. As regards families with children, I am sure they would willingly live further out and in any case the open areas would certainly benefit the children.

Water Supply

The water supply during the year was satisfactory and the standard of the treated water supplied to the town was always graded highly satisfactory.

Sanitation

The sewage disposal works was maintained in a satisfactory condition and this branch of our work called for no complaints in the year.

Public Conveniences

At long last Machynlleth can boast of its new public conveniences. For a very long time we have suffered severe and not unwarranted criticism from the townspeople and on several occasions from visitors to our town on the shocking state of the conveniences provided at the town hall. But now all this is changed and in the summer of 1959 I trust it will be the proud duty of the citizens of this town to direct requesting visitors to these new conveniences.

I use the word "proud" because the conveniences were opened in November, 1958 and very shortly afterwards were the subject of hooliganism from some shortsighted individuals in the town. Why cannot people take a pride in their town, be it only the public conveniences. Perhaps the schools might help in trying to instill some pride in these youngsters.

Slaughterhouse

There is still one privately owned slaughterhouse in the district and meat that is killed here is regularly inspected by the Public Health Inspector.

Onee again I would like to say thank you to the Clerk and to Mr. Powell for their help on many occasions.

To Mr. Evans and to Miss Pearce again I owe a debt of gratitude for their never failing willingness to help me with very many matters. I trust that Mr. Evans will not be so busy this year and that the report will be out fairly early. Mr. Evans is an extremely busy man. His duties with the Council are very many and very varied.

The Council, as in previous years, have shown a keen interest in the health and well being of the inhabitants of this town. To be a member of a local council is not all glory, but it is hard and often unrewarding work, but each member of this Council fulfil their duties admirably.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

AMELIA EVANS.

Statistical Survey

	1958.	1957.
Area in acres	1.183	1.183
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)	1,810	1,830
Rateable Value	£19,853	£19,692
Penny product	£76.8.11.	£76.

LIVE BIRTHS	1958.			1957.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	14	17	31	12	8	20
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home confinements		1				
Birth rate per 1,000 population						
For Machynlleth		17.13			10.93	
For Urban areas in County		16.61			15.07	
For Montgomeryshire		16.05			15.22	
For England and Wales					16.1	

TILL BIRTHS

	1958.	1957.
ate - Percentage of live births		
For Machynlleth	0%	5.0
For Urban areas in County	1	4.1
For Montgomeryshire	2.1	3.8
For England and Wales		2.24

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year	1	0
Rate per 1,000 live births		
For Machynlleth	32	0
For Urban areas in County	24	30
For Montgomeryshire	25	22
For England and Wales		23.0

DEATHS - ALL CAUSES

	1958.			1957.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	12	13	25	12	13	25
Death rate per 1,000 population						
For Machynlleth.	13.18			13.66		
For Urban areas in County	12.22			11.14		
For Montgomeryshire	12.59			11.82		
For England and Wales				11.5		

AGE AT DEATH

	1958.			1957.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Age in years -						
Under 1	0	1	1	0	0	0
1 - 5	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	2	1	3	0	1	1
55-	3	1	4	3	2	5
65-	1	2	3	5	4	9
75-	4	5	9	3	2	5
85 and over	2	3	5	1	4	5
	12	13	25	12	13	25

CAUSES OF DEATH	1958.			1957.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory tuberculosis	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other forms of tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	0	0	0	0	1	1
lung, bronchus	0	0	0	0	0	0
breast	-	0	0	-	1	1
uterus	-	1	1	-	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	2	3	1	2	3
Leukaemia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	1	0	1	2	2	4
Coronary disease, angina	1	0	1	1	1	2
Hypertension with heart disease	0	2	2	0	3	3
Other heart disease	4	6	10	3	3	6
Other circulatory disease	1	0	1	3	0	3
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other diseases of the respiratory system	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nephritis, nephrosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2	0	-	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	0	0	-	0	0
Congenital malformation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other defined and ill defined diseases	1	2	3	0	0	0
Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0	0	0	0
All other accidents	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total -	12	13	25	12	13	25

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases which are notifiable are -

Scarlet fever, whooping cough, acute poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, dysentery, meningococcal infections, acute pneumonia, smallpox, acute encephalitis, enteric fever, paratyphoid fever, erysipelas, food poisoning.

During the year an epidemic of measles occurred and 99 notifications of the disease were received. This outbreak occurred in the first three months of the year and the table shows the age and sex distribution of the cases.

Age	Male	Female
Under 1 year	0	0
1 -	3	1
2 -	2	4
3 -	1	3
4 -	4	6
5 - 9	31	29
10 - 14	8	6
15 - 24	1	0
25 and over	0	0
Total -	50	49

TUBERCULOSIS

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year. This was a man of 69 years.

One other case was put on the register being a transfer-in to the town from Manchester. He was a man of 43.

Five cases were removed from the register.

1. Due to death in a man who was notified in 1941 when aged 40 and suffering with pulmonary tuberculosis.

2. Due to recovery, a man who was notified in 1952 aged 24 with pulmonary tuberculosis.

3. Due to recovery, a woman aged 60 in 1955 when notified with glands of the neck.

4. Due to leaving the district, a young woman of 26 with pulmonary tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS CONT'D.

5. Due to leaving the district, a man of 43 with pulmonary tuberculosis.

At the end of the year there were 27 notified cases of tuberculosis living in the town.

In the autumn term B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis was again carried out at the Machynlleth High School on children of 13 years old whose parents had agreed to this vaccination.

As I have described in my report for 1957 this is a lengthy procedure and perhaps it would be advisable if I explained this again.

In the first place the children are Mantoux tested i.e. they are given a small intra dermal injection of tuberculin. This result is taken after two days. Those children who give positive results have at some time had an infection with tuberculosis, maybe so slight that it did not show as a diagnosed case of tuberculosis. It means that because of this previous infection these children have some immunity to the disease and it is not necessary to vaccinate them. Those children who showed no reaction to this test are then vaccinated and six weeks later these vaccinated children are again Mantoux tested to find if they are now building up a resistance to the disease.

The children who gave positive reactions to the first Mantoux test were followed up by the Health Visitor and they and their family contacts were invited to attend the Mass Radiography Unit. This Unit was in the town practically every month in 1958, but I understand this practice will be discontinued in 1959 presumably because it is felt that the weekly clinic held at the chest hospital is adequate.

Number who consented for B.C.G.	57	
Number Mantoux tested	53	(4 absent)
Number Mantoux positive	6	
Number Mantoux negative	47	
Number vaccinated with B.C.G.	47	
Post-B.C.G. Mantoux tested	44	(3 absent)
Post-B.C.G. Mantoux positive	36	
Post-B.C.G. Mantoux negative	7	(1 absent)

The material used for vaccination was Glaxo freeze dried B.C.G.

THE GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

AMBULANCE

The local service consists of the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee. Telephone - Machynlleth 2179.

SITTING CAR SERVICE

All enquiries to the County Health Offices, Newtown. Telephone - Newtown 205.

CHILDREN'S OFFICER

This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act 1948. The Childrens officer is -

Mr. W. E. Jones,
County Offices,
Welshpool. Telephone - Welshpool 3311

The Children's reception home is at -

12, Bronwylfa,
Welshpool. Telephone - Welshpool 3109.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

The district is served by -

Nurse M. Jones,
2 Maglona Villas,
Machynlleth. Telephone - Machynlleth 2129

HEALTH VISITING

The health visitor for this area is -

Miss Eunice Jones,
Caewern,
Corris. Telephone - Corris 225.

HOME HELP SERVICE

In such cases as elderly people living in their own homes, home confinements and a number of other types of cases, home help is often available and payment depends on the income of the person concerned. For further information advice can be sought from the home help supervisor, who is most sympathetic and understanding and who works

HOME HELP SERVICE CONT'D.

very hard especially for the older members of the community. To herd elderly people together in a large house however well run and however sympathetic the matron may be is not always the answer for some old folk. So many want to stay in their own homes with their own furniture around them. But many have gone past being able to care for themselves and it is in this connection that the home help service is, to my mind, most invaluable. A home help need go in for a few hours daily, to clean up, light a fire and prepare a meal. The home help supervisor can be contacted at the County Health Offices, Newtown. Telephone - Newtown 205.

CARE OF THE AGED

This service is provided by the Welfare Department of the County Council and the local home established for the care of the aged is at Newlands, Machynlleth.

HOSPITALS

The Machynlleth, Corris and District Hospital is controlled by the Mid-Wales Hospital Board based at Aberystwyth. It has medical, surgical and midwifery beds.

LABORATORY SERVICE

A branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service is at the Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth, under the direction of Dr. M.N.V. Sudds. Telephone - Aberystwyth 216.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The County Council is responsible for this service and an infant welfare clinic is held on the second and fourth Tuesdays every month in the afternoon at Doll Street.

TUBERCULOSIS

This service is controlled by the regional Hospital Board. Dr. G.O. Thomas, the Chest Physician, holds a clinic every Wednesday at 11.00 a.m. at the Chest Hospital.

VACCINATION

Vaccination against smallpox is carried out by the local general practitioners and at the infant welfare centre.

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH PROPHYLAXIS

Protection against whooping cough is commenced at two to three months and consists of three injections at monthly intervals. This is followed by two injections for diphtheria at monthly intervals. The value of diphtheria immunising and in maintaining a high rate of immunisation is shown by the following table and refers to Wales -

Year	Deaths	Nofifications
1948	7	190
1949	1	102
1950	0	62
1951	1	53
1952	3	39
1953	0	17
1954	0	7
1955	0	1
1956	0	2
1957	0	1

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

During the year a great many children whose age varied from six months to sixteen years were vaccinated against poliomyelitis and many children received a third injection. The vaccination was offered also to pregnant women and some took advantage of this.

In the Augumn the scheme was extended to young people up to the age of 26, but the response at first was very poor and by the end of 1958 only a few people in this age group had even asked for vaccination. We all know how great the desire for vaccination was early in 1959 following the death of a well known football player from this dreaded disease.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Meat inspection has been regularly carried out throughout the year. The Council has a mutual-aid arrangement with Towyn U.D.C. which ensures maximum possible protection to consumers in both areas.

One notable feature was the absence of T.B. in cattle. T.B. is found, however, in pigs, but here it should perhaps be stated, there are some other infections giving similar pathological pictures, such as Actinomyces.

Another feature was the constant heavy condemnation of bovine and lamb livers, the bovine livers being affected by "fluke" and the lamb livers by a chronic infection, probably parasitic in origin.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION CONT'D

During the year, 282 tins and packages of foodstuffs in shops were surrendered and condemned.

HOUSING ACT 1959.

Number of applications made for improvement grants	2.
Number granted	2.

(The above figures exclude applications withdrawn).

SLUM CLEARANCE

Number of families rehoused	18.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Number issued	1.

INFORMAL NOTICES

Number served	38.

Analyses :-

Housing disrepair and/or nuisances injurious to health	11
Drainage defects	21
Caravans	2
Rodent infestation	1
Gas effluent nuisance	1
Refuse accumulation	2
	38

Number complied with	38.

STATUTORY NOTICES

Number served	Nil.